COMPUTING:

THE NEWS FRONTIER

PUTTING BYTES INTO YOUR BARK
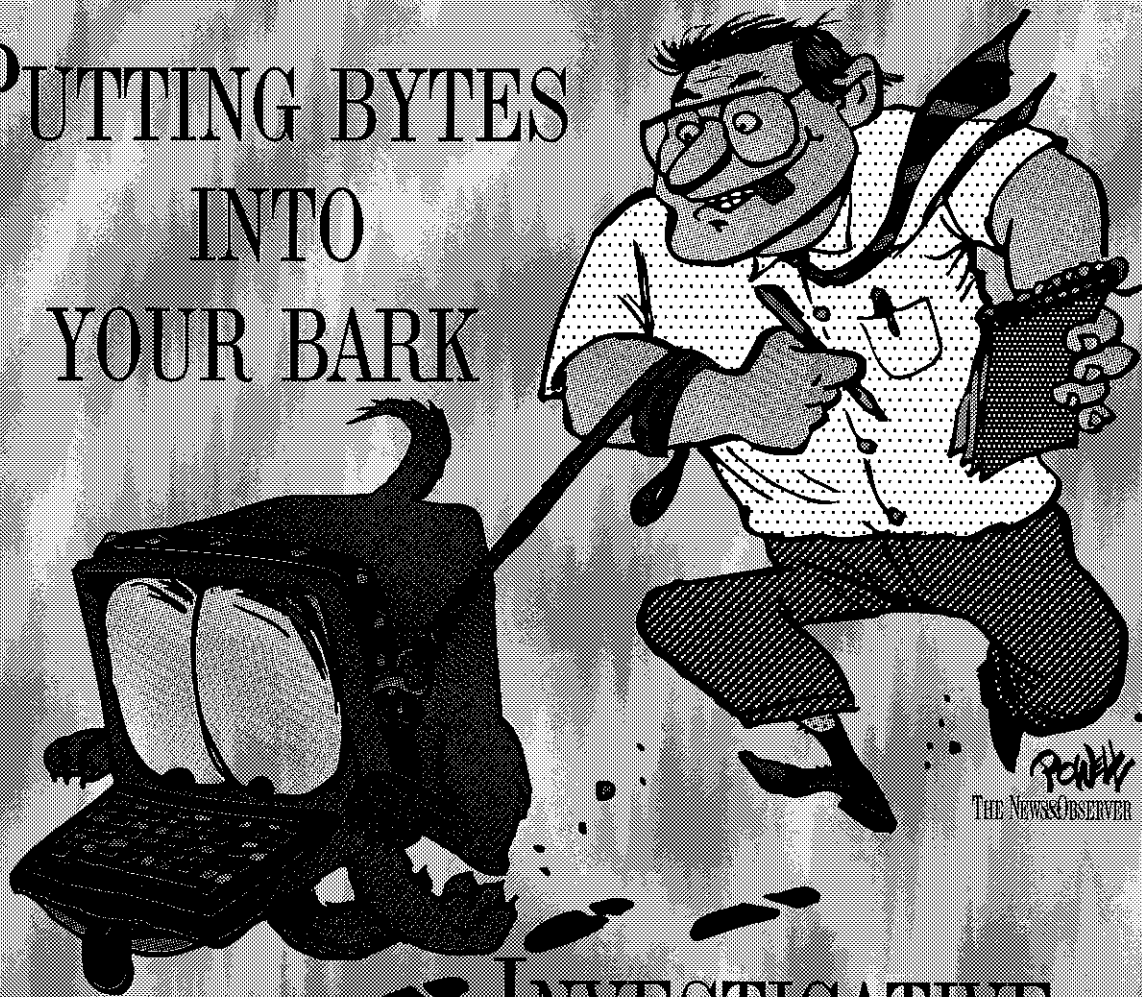
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS & EDITORS

POWELL
THE NEWS & OBSERVER

• RALEIGH, N.C. • OCTOBER 21-24, 1993 •

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and Editors
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Greetings

IRE and *The News & Observer* welcome you to Raleigh and the most ambitious and comprehensive conference dedicated solely to computer-assisted reporting ever held. By Sunday afternoon, we hope you will have learned some new computer skills, polished some old ones, and crammed your notebooks with story ideas to take back home.

We encourage you to ask questions of the instructors and your colleagues. More than 500 of them have come here from 42 states and the District of Columbia, from as close as just down the street, from as far away as Puerto Rico, Canada and Guam.

We all came with one objective: to explore "the news frontier."

Contributors

The News & Observer, Raleigh, N.C.

Thanks to the following organizations that helped cover the expenses of the instructors:

The Arizona Republic
Asbury Park Press
Boston Herald
The Charlotte Observer
The Dallas Morning News
Dayton Daily News
Detroit Free Press
Federal Election Commission
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
The Hartford Courant
Lansing State Journal
The Los Angeles Times
The Miami Herald
National Library on Money and Politics
New York Newsday
The New York Times
The Oregonian
The Phoenix Gazette
The Plain Dealer
The Post-Standard, Syracuse
The Poynter Institute for Media Studies
Queen City Container Corp, Charlotte
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
St. Petersburg Times
San Jose Mercury News
Sun-Sentinel, Fort Lauderdale
Taxpayer Assets Project, Washington
Time Warner, New York
Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse
Tribune-Review, Greensburg, Pa.
USA TODAY / Gannett Company
U.S. News & World Report
The Virginian-Pilot & Ledger-Star, Norfolk
The Washington Post

We also want to thank the local committee members from *The News & Observer:*

Susanna Cantor	**Butch Robertson**
Joe Dew	**Jon Schmid**
Cassandra Garner	**Justin Scroggs**
Flora Garcia	**Donna Seese**
Bill Krueger	**Pat Stith**
Teresa Leonard	**Lisa P. Van Asch**
Mary Miller	**Fraser Van Asch**
Tinker Ready	**Dan Woods**
Steve Riley	**Eddie Yandle**

. . . . .

IRE thanks these companies for their contributions of software during the conference:

Borland	**Microsoft Inc.**
International Inc.	**SAS Institute**
Cavin's Inc.	**SPSS Inc.**
Data Description Inc.	**Strategic**
Lotus Development Corp.	**Mapping Inc.**

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IRE would like to offer special thanks to International Business Machines Corp. of Research Triangle Park, which provided 110 computers for use in hands-on training.

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Exhibitors

Mead Data Central
Wiltec Inc.

Daily Schedule

GUIDE TO THE SESSIONS

THURSDAY:

8 - 9:10 a.m.

Oak Forest A
ABCs of databases
What's a database? A record? A field? How many nibbles in a byte and why should I care? The different types of data — when are numbers characters? String together two, three, four, five relational databases to get the story.
Andy Scott, former executive director of IRE

Oak Forest B
Equipment, software: what you will need and how much it will cost
Discussion of computers, tape drives, scanners, database managers, spread sheets, tape transfer utilities, communication software, operating systems, mapping software, hypertext, and development tools. What should I buy if I have a budget of $5,000? $10,000? $50,000 or $100,000?
Jon Schmid, *The News & Observer*

Pin Oak
Reprint room opens
Pick up copies of computer-assisted stories. The room will stay open while supplies last. When they're gone, they're gone.

9:25 - 10:35 a.m.

Oak Forest A
Databases vs. spread sheets
When is one better than the other? Examples when it matters a lot. How do you make a spreadsheet? A database? How do you move from one environment to the other and back again?
Rich Gordon, *The Miami Herald*

Oak Forest B
Databases: where to find them and how to negotiate for them
The first thing you should do when you want a tape and the five things you have to know to load it. How to keep the government from overcharging you. What to say when an agency tells you there's no way.
Pat Stith, *The News & Observer*

10:50 a.m. - noon

Oak Forest A
The beginner's guide to the online galaxy
Step-by-step to logging on to the world of useful online

data. From passwords to modems to software to simple search techniques - what is all this stuff anyway?
Beth Marchak, *The Plain Dealer*

Oak Forest B
FoxPro vs. Paradox: the good, the bad, and the ugly
The strengths and weaknesses of database analysis programs popular among journalists. Structured Query Language, Query-by-Example: what's the difference?
Russ Buettner, *New York Newsday,* and **Shawn McIntosh,** *The Dallas Morning News*

Hanover I
We want your comments
IRE is preparing the curriculum for traveling seminars, including hands-on training. Please tell us your ideas. Curriculum committee members: **Craig Doremus,** *Sunday Sun-Journal,* Lewiston, Maine.; **Brant Houston,** *The Hartford Courant;* and **Penny Loeb,** *U.S. News & World Report*

Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Lunch on your own

1:30 - 2:40 p.m.

Oak Forest A
ABCs of databases *REPEAT*

Oak Forest B
Equipment, software: what you will need and how much it will cost *REPEAT*

Hanover I
Basic graphics
Can you name the five basic types of charts and their appropriate uses? Do you know how to electronically transfer MS-DOS text to an Apple Macintosh charting program? Learn chartmaker secrets interpreting and presenting statistics. Discover three information graphics books everyone should read.
Steve Segal, *Tribune-Review,* Greensburg, Pa.

2:55 - 4:05 p.m.

Oak Forest A
Databases vs. spread sheets *REPEAT*

Oak Forest B
CAR on the cheap
You don't have to spend thousands of dollars to be a

computer journalist. A guide to free or cheap databases, affordable software and low-budget online services. Ideas for building databases without breaking the bank. Inexpensive solutions to hardware problems. Forging relationships with academics and others who will share costs.
Judy Miller, *The Miami Herald,* and **Nora Paul,** The Poynter Institute

Hanover I
Databases: where to find them and how to negotiate for them *REPEAT*

4:20 - 5:30 p.m.

Oak Forest A
The beginner's guide to the online galaxy *REPEAT*

Oak Forest B
Downloading nine-track tape
How to gain access to data stored on mainframe computers using a tape drive and a PC. Includes an introduction to the basics of electronic data storage and a demonstration of a download.
Jon Schmid, *The News & Observer*

Hanover I
FoxPro vs. Paradox: the good, bad and ugly *REPEAT*

FRIDAY:

8 - 9:10 a.m.

Oak Forest A
Newsroom math: what you absolutely MUST know
Required math you knew in 6th grade, but forgot: how to calculate percentages, percentage change, per capita, index numbers, means, medians, frequencies, measurement conversions, etc. You'll learn how to avoid the most common math errors reporters make and be seen as a guru in the eyes of your colleagues. Bring a calculator.
Steve Doig, *The Miami Herald*

Oak Forest B
Online: get me everything and get it now
It's a dark and stormy night. On the police scanner you hear that John X has been arrested for hit and run. Who is this guy? What are his connections? Learn what electronic resources you may use to identify people, even if they're not in your backyard. Tips, techniques and pitfalls.
Nora Paul, The Poynter Institute, **Lisa Van Asch,** *The News & Observer*

Hanover I
A project: start to finish
Virtually every computer-assisted news project goes

through eight basic steps. A guide to the steps, using a small project for illustration.
Wendell Cochran, Gannett News Service

9:25 - 10:35 a.m.

Oak Forest A
Statistics: regress for success
The general linear model can solve some of your reporting problems. How to use regression models to make apples comparable to oranges, cluster cases into similar groups, and search for meaningful relationships.
Phil Meyer, University of North Carolina

Oak Forest B
Government databases online: 20+ sources you can't live without
Navigate the Internet, CompuServe, Dialog, the FEC, and government databases to get the latest on the Supreme Court, Congress, political campaigns, toxics, nukes, pilots, planes, federal courts, health care, companies, individuals, crime, education, patents and the census.
Dave Davis and **Beth Marchak,** *The Plain Dealer*

Hanover I
Introduction to hypertext and advanced word processing techniques
Word processing means more than typing, moving blocks of text, and running a spell checker. With hypertext programs and modern word processing programs, you can organize scores of interviews to find the right bit of information in a flash. By learning a few simple tricks, even a beginner can write macros to put notes in order.
Dan Woods, *The News & Observer,* and **Francis Pisani,** freelance, Mexico City

10:50 a.m. - noon

Oak Forest A
Statistics: when data makes you cross-eyed, make a cross tab
An introduction to a simple analytic tool that can help you find the story in a jumble of tabular data. Examples will use the automated cross tab features in FoxPro and Excel to analyze Home Mortgage Disclosure Act lending data.
George Landau, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

Oak Forest B
Online government bulletin boards
This session will explore more than 150 bulletin board systems operated by federal agencies, departments, and courts: how to access them, what they offer, and which are most useful.
Bruce Maxwell, freelance, Falls Church, Va.

Hanover I
Hypertext: how to use a computer to organize scores of interviews
Searching a mountain of material is impossible on your typical newsroom system, but it's easy with SmarText. How you can use hypertext for projects big and small.
Steve Riley, Justin Scroggs and **Melanie Sill,** *The News & Observer*

Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Lunch on your own

1:30 - 2:40 p.m.
Oak Forest A
Beat reporting: how computers can make you better
Computer-assisted reporting is not just for major projects. Computers can track people and issues on your beat. Databases can be used as tipsters and trend indicators. Government reporters use spreadsheets to follow budgets and votes. Police reporters use databases to find cops' unlisted phone numbers. Education reporters use Internet to find university sources and trends. Computers can also help organize material to be used more than once.
Tom Foster, *The Post-Standard,* Syracuse; **Bill Krueger,** *The News & Observer,* and **Steve Miller,** *The New York Times*

Oak Forest B
FEC online: tracking campaign contributions
The Federal Election Commission has been called a toothless watchdog. But its direct online computer access to candidate, PAC, and contributor records are great for putting bytes into your bark. Learn how to get the FEC in your newsroom, what you can do with it, and how others have unleashed story after story.
Kent Cooper, Federal Election Commission

Hanover I
Spreadsheet data analysis
Spreadsheets have a powerful visual paradigm and multi-layered character. But beyond entering and adding numbers or managing lists of data, what else can they do? This session looks at conditional logic and text-handling features, advanced functions for cleaning data, functions for selection and projection of large amounts of data, data tables for aggregating volumes into understandable tables.
William Casey, *The Washington Post*

2:55 - 4:05 p.m.
Oak Forest A
Parsing print images: how to save big bucks, avoid a court fight, and get the job done at the same time
How do you analyze a 500-page printout? Ask for the

electronic print image and convert the file into a database in minutes. Learn how to turn formatted text into spreadsheets and databases without fancy programming, using the parsing features of a spreadsheet and the utility program Monarch. How to negotiate for print images when you can't get data files.
Tom Boyer, *The Virginian-Pilot & The Ledger-Star*

Oak Forest B
The mother's milk of politics: how to discover who gave what to whom and why
With election campaigns now costing millions, a political reporter without a computer is a political reporter unarmed. How to find, create, and use databases to discover whether your representative is being bought by bankers or your governor is being rented by Wall Street bond traders.
Rob Christensen, *The News & Observer,* and **Larry Makinson,** Center for Responsive Politics

Hanover I
Online and nearline: data on demand
Now that you have all those databases, how are you going to make them accessible? Deciding which databases to maintain and update, how to store them and how to get at them. Techniques include writing to CD-ROM and creating customized user interfaces.
Teresa Leonard, *The News & Observer,* **Bob Port,** *St. Petersburg Times,* and **Mike Whiteley,** formerly of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

4:20 - 5:30 p.m.
Oak Forest A
Small projects you can do on a shoestring
Tested recipes for can't-miss stories from the Toxic Release Inventory, Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, and campaign finance databases. We'll show you where to find the data, how to crack its secrets and turn numbers into English.
Ron Campbell, *The Orange County Register,* and **Richard Mullins,** National Library on Money and Politics

Oak Forest B
Polling: If you don't ask pollsters the right questions, you'll be counted a fool
Why the disclosed margin of error can be misleading. How survey samples are selected. Famous misleading questions from polling history. Recognizing opinions disguised as non-opinions.
Phil Meyer, University of North Carolina

Hanover I
Screen design with Visual Basic
Developing your own Windows applications to make

database work easy, even for the non-nerd. Make your whole world "point-and-click." Watch an application being built start to finish.
Cassandra Garner, *The News & Observer*

6 - 8 p.m.

Reception
Music by the Piedmont Hepcats, playing a mix of blues, bluegrass and country swing, plus a cash bar, at the Raleigh Civic Center, Northeast Meeting Hall

SATURDAY:

8 - 9 p.m.

Oak Forest A
Bad data can look like good data: problems your mother never warned you about
Pitfalls to watch out for. Factors that can throw off the analysis. Ghost variables. Skewed averages. Bad key-punch. Reverse 999 numbers. How to recognize problems and fix them.
Brant Houston, *The Hartford Courant*

Oak Forest B
Mapping with MapInfo: a demonstration of the power and the principles
An introduction to mapping concepts and an explanation of pointfiles, mapfiles and geocoding.
Scott Anderson, *Sun-Sentinel,* Fort Lauderdale

Hanover I
That was no accident, or was it? How to find out if something happened by chance
When faced with a startling finding, how do you know if it's news or nonsense? Using simple statistical techniques, you can compute the chances of almost anything happening. Learn when and how to use the Chi-square test for significance.
Dwight Morris, *The Los Angeles Times*

9:25 - 10:35 a.m.

Oak Forest A
Scrubbing dirty data with FoxPro
Tools and tricks to identify and eliminate dirty data. Demonstrations will include techniques for (relatively) rapid editing of names and addresses using FoxPro's text editor and string functions.
George Landau, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

Oak Forest B
Mapping: Atlas
This session will give an overview of the Atlas GIS mapping system and its features. Demonstrations of how

to use mapping to analyze and graphically present data from external files.
Jennifer LaFleur, *San Jose Mercury News*

Hanover I
Visualizing data: the future of statistical analysis
How reporters using new techniques can test the validity of their hunches about the organizations they cover. Pulling back to look at the big picture, zooming in to examine a particular matter, combining all to spot the meaningful patterns and important trends.
David Burnham and **Sue Long,** co-directors, Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, Syracuse University

10 :50 a.m. - noon

Oak Forest A
Scrubbing dirty data with Paradox
Tools and tricks for eliminating dirty data, digesting print images and matching up unmatched databases. Changeto (sic) and delete queries, string function and scripts.
Shawn McIntosh, *The Dallas Morning News*

Oak Forest B
Color by numbers
Spreadsheets, stacks of them, surround you, telling the tale in irrefutable numbers of corruption or change or a curiosity. You love the spreadsheets. You have spent many long nights with them. You cannot think of moving on without them. Think again. This session will discuss, with examples, the writing challenges that data-laden stories present and how to master those challenges.
Mary Pat Flaherty, *The Washington Post*

Hanover I
FoxPro programming
This session starts with an easy problem - how do you write a program that expresses a number in Celsius or Fahrenheit? And then you'll be shown how to add bells, whistles, and flashing lights. You will work with a menu driven program on programming.
Dave Stith, Queen City Container Corp. (and builder of *The News &Observer's* Money Machine)

Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Raleigh Civic Center, Northeast Meeting Hall Luncheon
Lunch, followed by a talk, *The Self-Sufficient Newsroom*
Frank Daniels III, executive editor, *The News & Observer*

1:30 - 2:40 p.m.

Oak Forest A
BBSs in the newsroom
Create a bulletin board to give readers a new pipeline into the paper, get story ideas, and make money to support

projects. *The Fort Worth Star-Telegram* has had a BBS since 1982. *The Charlotte Observer* has had one for a year. A look at what they've done, what they wished they had done, what they want to do, and how you can do it, too.
Maureen Hathaway, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram,* and
Steve Snow, *The Charlotte Observer*

Oak Forest B
Scanning
It can be faster and cheaper than data entry. Learn the advantages and pitfalls of this emerging technology.
Dave Armstrong, *Boston Herald*

Hanover I
Introduction to Paradox script-writing
Unleash the power of Paradox with its built-in programming language. Workhorse scripts cover everything from linking databases where names don't match, to mass-producing reports.
Wendell Cochran, Gannett News Service

2 - 5 p.m.
Open house
The News & Observer - 215 S. McDowell St.
Staff of *The News & Observer's* newsroom and news research department will be available to answer questions and demonstrate programs. Drop by for a visit.

2:55 - 4:05 p.m.

Oak Forest A
The portable office
How to download data on site. How to go online back to your office, to city hall in your home town, or to Washington.
Bob Port, *St. Petersburg Times*

Oak Forest B
The mystery and power of Internet
Run a super-computer from your bedroom. Correspond by electronic mail with 10 million people around the globe, including your friends and the experts. Keep on top of developments in computer-assisted journalism, environmental and consumer issues, economics. Retrieve electronic copies of shareware and documents, including the latest U.S. Supreme Court opinions. Delve into thousands of databases in dozens of countries.
Dan Gillmor, *Detroit Free Press*

Hanover I
The law: how it is evolving and what you can expect down the road
An overview of state and federal laws and court decisions affecting access to electronic records.

Rebecca Daugherty, Reporter's Committee on Freedom of the Press, and **Hugh Stevens,** counsel, N.C. Press Association

4:20 - 5:30 p.m.

Oak Forest A
Feature stories in every field
Computer-assisted reporting isn't just for heroes and hackers. Most databases contain great feature material. This session shows you how to find it.
Mary Miller, *The News & Observer*

Oak Forest B
The census, still an incredible value
Learn how to use the CD-ROM containing data for your state. Get information about one place, or extract spreadsheets containing information on lots of places. Link your data to electronic maps. See *The News & Observer's* in-house census retrieval software. Bonus: tap into a Michigan supercomputer and get detailed, cross-tabulated demographic and housing data from every state.
Steve Doig, *The Miami Herald,* and **Dan Gillmor,** *Detroit Free Press*

Hanover I
Gaining access to government information
Ways to expand online access to government information systems, the use of the Internet, the pricing of government information products and services, and a good news/bad news view of public access to government information.
Jamie Love, director, Taxpayer Assets Project, Washington

5:45 p.m.
Room 1214
Meeting of the IRE Board of Directors

SUNDAY:

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Oak Forest A
Training the trainers: how to set up a CAR class
Classroom instruction, one-on-one tutoring, learning by doing projects, or leaving them to sink or swim? How can we spread the gospel of computer-assisted reporting throughout our newsrooms? Four who are trying will talk about what works and what doesn't.
Mike Casey, *Dayton Daily News,* **Brant Houston,** *The Hartford Courant,* **Gail Hulden,** *The Oregonian,* and **Penny Loeb,** *U.S. News & World Report*

Oak Forest B
Ideaware: new programs for your bag of tricks
Match up databases; select records randomly or extract by

an interval (i.e., every sixth, 10th, or 129th record); find records that appear more than once; factor out inflation when comparing dollar amounts over time; assign unique numbers to records; find out who is giving to both political candidates. Programs are written in both Paradox and FoxPro (and will work with dBase, too). All are heavily documented so you can rewrite them to fit your project needs.

Richard Mullins, National Library on Money and Politics

9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

Oak Forest A

Growing a computer-assisted reporting program

Planting the idea, then nurturing it. Building alliances between the newsroom, news research, MIS, and corporate offices. What kinds of talents you need to bring to the table and where you might find them.

Lany McDonald, Time-Warner, New York

Oak Forest B

Blue sky: new tools on the way to your desktop

The newsroom of the future is no longer theoretical. Databases, networks, and analytical software in the lab or on the drawing boards will empower reporters.

Bob Port, *St. Petersburg Times*, and **George Schlukbier** and **Dan Woods,** *The News & Observer*

11 a.m. - noon

Oak Forest A&B

Sixty ideas in 60 minutes

A whirlwind show of quick hits, features, and long-term investigative pieces using computer-assisted reporting, and a brief explanation of how the stories were done.

Olive Talley, *The Dallas Morning News*

12:15 p.m.

Room 1214

Meeting of the IRE Board of Directors

Conference ends

A public file containing business, financial and tax information about IRE may be reviewed at the registration desk.

About the Instructors

Scott B. Anderson

As newsroom computer resources editor at the *Sun-Sentinel* in Fort Lauderdale, Anderson directs computer-assisted news gathering as an analyst and trainer. Some of the stories he's been involved in include an analysis of 2.3 million traffic tickets, fire code violations at state universities, discrepancies in property assessments vs. sale price, and teachers not certified to teach what they teach. Anderson works primarily with dBase or Lotus 1-2-3 on a Compaq PC with an Overland Data 9-track subsystem, including TapeView; SPSS on a VAX mainframe and PC; and MapInfo for Windows and DOS.

David Armstrong

Dave Armstrong is part of the investigative unit at the *Boston Herald*. In 1990, he attended MICAR's one-week training program and subsequently helped launch a computer-assisted reporting unit. It has been responsible, in part, for stories on workers' compensation fraud, campaign finances, abuse of the mentally retarded and mentally ill in state care, environmental dangers, and a series on non-profit health and human service companies. The unit also keeps records on more than 50,000 contributors to local and state politicians.

David Bowermaster

Dave Bowermaster, a reporter/researcher for *U.S. News & World Report*, attended a week-long MICAR seminar in August, 1992. Bowermaster mastered computers while working for DRI/McGraw-Hill, an economics forecasting and consulting firm, where he used Lotus 1-2-3 and Quattro spreadsheets as well as a variety of mainframe databases. Since joining *U.S. News* in 1991, he has used FoxPro and SPSS statistical software on a number of computer-assisted projects.

Tom Boyer

Tom Boyer started the computer-assisted reporting program at *The* (Norfolk) *Virginian-Pilot* last year, after six years as a state capital reporter. *The Pilot's* philosophy is to involve as many people as possible from its news staff of 230, and to use database technology for neighborhood tab features, as well as big takeouts. Most projects have had a local focus: crime patterns, day care, public school performance, land assess-

ments, student loan defaults, child molestation, murder sentencing, campaign contributions, and the census. Boyer attended MICAR and can answer questions about FoxPro, SQL, tape loading, data clearing, converting text and print images to data files, and Atlas GIS mapping.

Russell Buettner

Russ Buettner works on computer-assisted reporting projects and as a general assignment reporter for *New York Newsday*. He recently analyzed data for a story that examined the city's bail system. He has worked on projects using data on home mortgages, worker safety, toxic releases, airline incidents, campaign contributions, education, and the census. While a student at the University of Missouri, he was a research assistant for Elliot Jaspin, now head of computer-assisted reporting for Cox Newspapers.

David Burnham

David Burnham is the Washington-based co-director of the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, a Syracuse University organization created to help reporters and others obtain and use federal enforcement data. A former reporter with *The New York Times*, Burnham has been using data to investigate the problems of large government bureaucracies such as the New York Police Department and the IRS. He is the author of *The Rise of the Computer State*, an analysis of the social impact of computerized organizations, and *A Law Unto Itself: The IRS and the Abuse of Power*. He currently is working on a book about the Justice Department.

Ronald Campbell

Ron Campbell, a reporter for *The Orange County Register*, has hunted stories with a computer for the past two years. He has taught himself DOS, Windows, FoxPro, XDB, Excel and MapInfo. A paper trail veteran, Campbell noticed a few years ago that governments are increasingly putting their records on magnetic tape. He decided he would have to learn about computers or give up investigative reporting. Since then, he's produced computer-assisted stories focusing on toxic wastes, political fund raising, loan discrimination and bus safety.

Michael Casey

Mike Casey is an investigative reporter for the *Dayton Daily News'* business department. He fought a nine-month Freedom of Information Act battle to get the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's database, which contained 2 million inspection records. Casey used a Dell PC to analyze the inspection records for the Dayton area and a mainframe computer at a local university to analyze the national records. He used Nine Track Express and XDB to analyze the records with a PC, and SAS on the mainframe.

William Casey

Bill Casey is director of computer-assisted reporting at *The Washington Post*. He has 20 years of experience in the computer software business, most of it working with databases and in design and implementation of online systems for both mainframes and desktop computers. He also has worked as a geographer, dealing with and analyzing many different kinds of data from local, state, federal and various private sources. He knows IBM-PC compatibles and the Apple Macintosh. Applications experience includes: PC database pro-

grams, especially FoxPro, dBase and R:Base; electronic spreadsheet packages, particularly Excel but also Lotus 1-2-3; and mapping software, Atlas Pro for the Macintosh in particular.

Rob Christensen

Rob Christensen is chief political reporter and a columnist for *The News & Observer*. He has covered government and politics in North Carolina for the past 20 years. Christensen barely knows how to turn on his computer. But after watching $25 million spent in one Senate race, even Christensen saw the need for help. With the assistance of more computer-friendly colleagues, he has tracked contributions in dozens of races. By using a database that now has about 200,000 contributions, The paper has published stories about how a shopping center developer got a highway overpass after hosting a $65,000 fundraiser for the governor, how Amway salesmen were financing a Senate campaign, and how the state's bankers bundled money to the state treasurer.

Wendell Cochran

Wendell Cochran is special projects editor at Gannett News Service. He has taught journalism at The American University and at George Washington University. Cochran has been involved in computer-assisted journalism for more than 10 years, concentrating on business-related topics such as banks and savings and loans. He has worked extensively with FEC, EPA, and other federal databases, as well as communications packages, spreadsheets, and DOS and Unix-based programs.

Sara Collins

Sara Collins is an associate editor at *U.S. News & World Report*. She writes economics and health policy stories for the business section. She used Lotus 1-2-3 to rank the states according to their economic health during last year's election. The story relied on five different state level statistics to give each state a composite rank. Collins has also used statistical software for a project on the costs of Maryland hospitals.

Kent C. Cooper

Kent Cooper is assistant staff director for disclosure at the U.S. Federal Election Commission. He is responsible for making public campaign finance reports filed by candidates for President, U.S. senator, and U.S. representative, as well as reports from political party committees and political action committees. Cooper operates a "storefront" public records office equipped with high speed micrographic optical disk and computer systems to assist the public in easily locating, researching and copying reports. He has helped formulate a disclosure database, readily accessible from anywhere in the country.

Tom Curran

Tom Curran is New York investigations editor at New York Newsday where he routinely uses computers. Among the databases he has used for daily stories and long-term projects are federal, state, and local campaign data, contract information from New York city and Washington, D.C., and New York state environmental records. One of the organizers of the Computer Camp at the IRE National Conference in New York last June, Curran regularly works with Nine Track Express, Lotus 1-2-3, XDB, FoxPro for Windows and Excel.

Paul D'Ambrosio

Paul D'Ambrosio is the computer reporting coordinator and an investigative reporter for the *Asbury Park* (N.J.) *Press*. He has been using computers since 1986, the year he designed and computerized a survey asking lawyers to rate the skills of local judges. In the last year, he has used FBI databases to track the 10-year crime trend in New Jersey (it's up); EPA records to sniff out the state's most toxic polluters (they're bad, but getting better); and prison records to assess the treatment of sex offenders (it isn't working). He is mostly self-taught in the use of relational databases, SQL, spreadsheets, DOS, Internet, and bulletin board systems.

Rebecca Daugherty

Rebecca Daugherty has served as director of the FOI Service Center, a special project of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, since 1987. She is also an editor of Reporters Committee publications *Tapping Officials' Secrets*, a 50-state and District of Columbia guide to open records and open meeting laws, and *How to Use the Federal FOI Act*, a guide to federal access laws. The Reporters Committee runs a widely used hotline for reporters who face First Amendment and freedom of information problems as they gather and cover the news. Daugherty is an attorney with degrees in journalism. She has been a newspaper reporter and copy editor in the Midwest, and a freedom of information specialist with the Bureau of Land Management.

Dave Davis

Dave Davis has worked at *The Plain Dealer* since August 1990, first as an environmental reporter and currently as a member of the newspaper's investigative team. For the series, "Lethal Does — Radiation That Kills," he and his partner, Ted Wendling, received awards this year from IRE and Sigma Delta Chi. Davis began to use computers to analyze government records in 1987, and received training at MICAR in 1990. Before joining *The Plain Dealer*, he was a special projects reporter for the *Dayton Daily News* and was in charge of its computer-assisted reporting program.

Stephen K. Doig

Steve Doig is the associate editor/research for *The Miami Herald*. He joined *The Herald* in 1977, and has covered science, aviation, education, politics, and state government. While serving as *The Herald*'s state capital bureau chief in 1982, he began doing simple data analyses using an early IBM PC and VisiCalc, the first spreadsheet. Since 1988, he has been handling computer-assisted reporting full time for *The Herald*, specializing in analysis of large tape data sets using the mainframe statistical program SAS.

Craig Doremus

Craig Doremus is a staff writer for the *Sunday Sun-Journal* in Lewiston, Maine. Before entering journalism, he was a scientist for 10 years, focusing on environmental research. He has done computer-assisted projects ranging from showing Maine's inefficient welfare bureaucracy to quantifying the state's credit crunch. Spreadsheets are his specialty. He works on a 486 PC with a 200 Mg hard drive and 8 Mg of RAM. The computer is outfitted with Windows, Excel 4.0, Q+E (an SQL database program), Xywrite and Quark XPress.

Jacqueline R. Duobinis

Jackie Duobinis is the media coordinator at the National Library on Money & Politics, a project of the Center for Responsive Politics in Washington. Before coming to the Library, she edited Congressional Quarterly's committees database and covered Congress for CQ's online service, Washington Alert. Previously, she designed and implemented a database, in dBase III Plus, that tracked campaign expenditures in the 1988 election. She also worked in Public Records at the Federal Election Commission. Duobinis, who learned "on the job," uses SQL, Excel, dBase, Lotus 1-2-3 and FoxPro.

Mary Pat Flaherty

Mary Pat Flaherty is metro projects editor at *The Washington Post*. She joined *The Post* after 15 years at *The Pittsburgh Press*, which she joined after four years at Northwestern University. Her career has included time spent as a writer for various sections of newspapers, among them magazines, the sports department, city desk, special projects, and time as a Sunday columnist. She has experienced her share of irate callers and her share of achievements, including a Pulitzer Prize, and the joy of hearing a bus rider read aloud one of her leads to fellow commuters.

Tom Foster

Tom Foster is the projects editor for *The Post-Standard* in Syracuse. *The Post-Standard* has made an effort to use computer-assisted reporting on a daily basis by making available to the entire staff several databases. Most require no training to use because they are written in the Paradox Applications Language (PAL) or are menu-driven CD-ROM applications. The paper has completed about 20 computer-assisted projects in the past three years, including a series on prison health care that was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for explanatory journalism.

Cassandra Garner

Cassandra Garner is an applications developer for the news research department of *The News & Observer*. She works extensively with the development of database applications through the use of FoxPro software and Visual Basic software. She also assists the staff in using Microsoft Windows and Lotus 1-2-3 software, and online applications. She studied computer programming at N.C. State University and has 12 years' experience working with computers.

Dan Gillmor

Dan Gillmor is regional affairs writer and technology columnist for the *Detroit Free Press*, where he has worked for the past five years. He has been using PCs for more than a decade. One of the first daily journalists to discover the Internet, he has been poking around in cyberspace since the mid-1980s. He has taught classes about the Internet at the *Free Press* and several major journalism conferences.

Richard E. Gordon

Rich Gordon enjoyed his first computer course. The second one, a college class chock-full of computer science majors, scared him away from computers for years. He got back into them in 1987, as a reporter in Virginia. Since then, at *The Palm Beach Post* and now at *The Miami Herald*, Gordon has helped produce dozens of computer-assisted stories, from major projects like examinations of property tax inequities, nuclear

power plants, and sentencing patterns for drunk drivers, to smaller stories, such has who drives Rolls Royces. Gordon does most of his work with QuattroPro and Paradox. He was a member of the first-ever week-long training class at MICAR, and he's attended several Indianapolis conferences by the National Institute for Advanced Reporting.

Maureen Hathaway

Maureen Hathaway is vice president for marketing at the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and president of StarText, an electronic information service provided by the newspaper since 1982. StarText is an "electronic community" where you can send and receive mail, check your stocks, get your news, make new friends, use a library, even make travel arrangements. Previously, she worked for radio stations in the Detroit area, doing traffic reporting, copy writing, and promotional work.

Katherine Barks Hoffman

Kathy Hoffman, a political reporter for the *Lansing State Journal*, got her first glimpse of what database journalism could do when she watched USA TODAY analyze the financial health of more than 3,000 savings and loan associations while on loan as a business writer there in 1989. She has used Paradox to look at how frequently the state inspects family day care centers and at what kinds of violent crimes local kids commit. She's typed in state liquor records to find the 10 bars and liquor stores that most frequently sell booze to minors, and how they're punished. She's checked state records on bad doctors and analyzed property tax proposals to tell readers in 22 communities if they'd save money.

Brant Houston

Brant Houston is database editor at *The Hartford Courant*. He spent two years developing the paper's computer-assisted reporting program with Projects Editor Kenton Robinson. Houston, who attended MICAR in 1990, specializes in relational databases such as XDB and FoxPro and also uses SAS for descriptive statistics. He and Robinson also have arranged online access to Connecticut's civil judicial system and trained reporters to use online databases on their beats. *The Courant* has done computer-assisted stories on serial killers, racial disparities in bail for criminal defendants, absenteeism among state workers, inner-city poverty, failed home release programs for criminals, toxic chemical releases from manufacturers, bundling among political contributors, favoritism in state leases, and budget and testing disparities among schools.

Gail Hulden

Gail Hulden, assistant head librarian at *The Oregonian*, is in charge of research. She joined the newspaper in 1987 to develop its online research capabilities. It now has access to more than 40 database vendors and a number of PACs and BBSs, including Internet. Hulden attended MICAR in January 1993 and is knowledgeable about XDB, FoxPro, Excel, MapInfo and Xywrite. She has worked on computer-assisted projects involving campaign finances, mortgage lending practices, and slum lords. She has taught at the Online Northwest conference and the Oregon Libraries Association.

George E. Jordan

George Jordan, a special writer at *New York Newsday*, is a self-taught computer user and the primary computer hack on the

city desk at *Newsday's* New York edition. Early on, Jordan studied operating systems, such as UNIX, DOS and C. His first computer-assisted stories were based on the 1990 census, in which he had to convert census tracts to New York city's political subdivisions. He recently produced a series about the New York public schools.

Bill Krueger

Bill Krueger is a state government reporter for *The News & Observer* and primarily keeps tabs on the state budget. He and his cohorts have used spreadsheets to track the state budget and the hundreds of recommendations of a government performance audit. They also have built databases to track the campaign finances of candidates and keep up with lobbyists who wine and dine legislators. They have mined state personnel and payroll databases for stories. Two years ago his computer knowledge was limited to how to use a word processor. But the paper's computer classes have helped him learn Lotus 1-2-3, FoxPro, and other software.

Jennifer LaFleur

Jen LaFleur, the research analyst for the *San Jose Mercury News*, is a former computer nerd turned newspaper person. She has an M.A. from the Missouri School of Journalism where she concentrated her studies in computer applications for newspapers. She also attended MICAR. Before heading west, she was a medical writer in Washington. She also has worked on special computer analysis projects with several news organizations including the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*. At the *News*, she coordinates primary research, works with the newsroom on computer analysis projects, and has conducted census analyses.

George Landau

George Landau is the manager of information technology at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, where he has been doing investigative reporting with computerized public records since 1989. Among the results of his and his colleagues' work are the reform of Missouri's laws regarding the investigation of child deaths and a federal indictment alleging that former Attorney General William Webster used a state workers' compensation fund to reward political supporters.

Teresa G. Leonard

Teresa Leonard, director of *The News & Observer's* news research department, trains and supervises researchers accessing information from commercial online services and other electronic sources. She helped introduce The paper to computer-assisted reporting. She has coordinated both statewide and national conferences on computer-assisted reporting and the Internet, working with Special Libraries Association. Leonard has 10 years' experience with computers, starting in the days of dBase II and eight-inch floppies. She works with FoxPro, Lotus 1-2-3, SmarText, Visual Basic, and a variety of word processing and communications programs. Her online experience includes working with Lexis/Nexis, Dialog, DataTimes, Burrelles, Periscope, FEC, government and bulletin board systems, Compuserve, and the Internet.

Penny Loeb

Penny Loeb, part of *U.S. News & World Report's* investigative team, did her first computer project the old-fashioned way in

1985, while getting a master's degree at the Missouri School of Journalism. She coded the data from 80 criminal court cases as to race, bail, sentences, etc., then entered that in a mainframe computer. But a MICAR seminar in February 1990 rocketed her out of the dark ages. Before joining *U.S. News*, Loeb did computer-assisted reporting at *New York Newsday* from 1990-92. Her stories focused on property tax and housing issues, and she found $275 million in overpaid taxes the city never refunded. She is an IRE director.

Susan B. Long

Sue Long is co-director of the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, a Syracuse University organization created to help reporters and others obtain and use federal enforcement data. An applied statistician and sociologist, Long is an authority on evaluation methods for judging the effectiveness of government regulatory and enforcement efforts, and has written data measurement and applied statistics techniques. She has won 12 federal court cases on public access to internal government files, one of which established leading case law requiring public disclosure of computer files under FOIA. Long is an associate professor of quantitative methods at Syracuse University's School of Management.

James P. Love

Jamie Love works for Ralph Nader's Center for Study of Responsive Law as director of economic research. He also is director of the Taxpayer Assets Project, which monitors the management of government property including government databases and information systems. He has taught economics at Rutgers and Princeton Universities and held research positions at Princeton and the National Bureau of Economic Research. He has written articles about government information policy and is a member of the editorial advisory board of Government Publications Review.

Larry Makinson

Larry Makinson is research director for the non-partisan Center for Responsive Politics in Washington, and its affiliate, the National Library on Money & Politics. A former reporter in Alaska, he began using computers in 1985 to research campaign contributions to Alaska legislators. He has since authored seven books and numerous reports tracking the patterns in industry support of politicians both in Alaska and at the federal level. His reports rely heavily on charts and graphs to show the patterns, and his philosophy of databases is KEEP IT SIMPLE. He is an avid Macintosh user.

Elizabeth Marchak

Beth Marchak is a reporter for *The Plain Dealer*. Before that she was computer projects editor at *The Washington Times* where she investigated sexual abuse of Boy Scouts, congressional travel and spending, D.C.'s escalating murder rate and police inefficiency, and home health care. Working on a Mac at work and a PC at home, Marchak taught herself how to do online searches and use database software. She's conducted seminars at *The Times* and elsewhere on online services and databases. She has tormented friends and colleagues with questions about their computer secrets. Many have reciprocated. She "got converted" when her partner found 3,500 pages full of redacted court files for the Boy Scout project.

Bruce Maxwell

Bruce Maxwell has done investigative reporting for both newspapers and television, and for the last five years has freelanced in Washington. He has written, co-authored, contributed to, or edited nine books. His newest, tentatively titled *How to Access Free Federal Government Information On-line*, will be published in mid-1994 by Congressional Quarterly. The book will describe more than 100 BBSs operated by the federal government. Maxwell specializes in finding easy, inexpensive ways of accessing information from government agencies and other sources with his Mac. His latest project is exploring the Internet.

Lany McDonald

Lany McDonald is director of the Time Warner Research Library in New York. She went to Time Warner in January after 12 years at *The News & Observer*, where she helped turn a modest clipping library into a full-service news research department in 1989. When she left *The N&O*, the computer-assisted network, CARNET, had become an integral part of the research department's services to the newsroom and a model of successful interdepartmental cooperation.

Shawn McIntosh

Shawn McIntosh is currently an assistant city editor at *The Dallas Morning News*, working with city hall and city government reporters and trying to make computer-assisted reporting a part of routine news gathering. Until recently, she was a special projects editor at *USA TODAY*, handling projects that involved computer-assisted journalism and polling. Shawn got interested in precision journalism as a student of Phil Meyer at the University of North Carolina. Her first real success was in 1987 at *The (Jackson, Miss.) Clarion-Ledger* where she and a team of reporters used the graphics department's Macintosh computer to uncover the state's failure to enforce mandatory drunken-driving sentences. From Jackson, she went to *USA TODAY*, where she worked for four years in the projects department.

Phillip E. Meyer

Phil Meyer's first computer encounter was with Harvard's IBM 7094 mainframe in 1966 while he was a Nieman Fellow on leave from Knight Newspapers. That experience prompted him to write *Precision Journalism* (1973) and *The New Precision Journalism* (1992). He persuades his students at the University of North Carolina to learn the basics of scientific method, including statistical analysis, in order to take full advantage of the power of computers in reporting. A professor since 1981, Meyer has served on the editorial boards of three social science journals and is currently president of the World Association for Public Opinion Research.

Judy Miller

Judy Miller, an assistant city editor at *The Miami Herald*, attended MICAR in 1989. She used the skills she learned there to analyze the 1990 census for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. She helped write or did data analysis that examined sweeping ethnic and racial changes in the Bay Area, divorce and child custody trends, and shifts in housing prices. She is an experienced user of Nine Track Express, Qualstar tape readers, and XDB. Previously, she used Paradox and Lotus 1-2-3 to figure out who was bankrolling San Francisco mayoral elec-

tions and a gubernatorial race. Both projects revealed donors violating campaign contribution limits. In Miami, Miller and reporter Terry Neal recently used Reflex to show how top city managers were raking in thousands of dollars and boosting their pensions by collecting for unpaid sick time. The city's finance director was forced into retirement after the practice was revealed. Miller is vice president of IRE.

Mary E. Miller

Mary Miller is a features writer at *The News & Observer* who sneaked into one of Pat Stith's computer-assisted reporting classes in 1991. She soon realized computers could provide the factual foundation for wacky features. After Stith let her play around with a database that contained 20 years' worth of North Carolina marriage records, she wrote a story about people who avoid getting married on the 13th of the month. She studied state death records, and for Christmas wrote a piece about how more people die during the holidays than any other time of the year. Miller even used computer-assisted reporting to help produce a bridal section.

Stephen C. Miller

Steve Miller is assistant technology editor at *The New York Times*, where he helps other journalists use technology to enhance their news gathering. In addition to his in-house consulting duties, he writes about technology and was a computer networking columnist for the Sunday Business section. Before joining *The Times*, he wrote about computers and consumer electronics for various publications, including *Seybold's Outlook, Home Office Computing, Black Enterprise*, and *Essence*. He's written also for such diverse publications as *Ms.* and *International Television*. Miller has used computers to aid his reporting since 1982.

Dwight L. Morris

Dwight Morris is editor for special investigations at the Washington bureau of *The Los Angeles Times*. He has directed many computer-assisted projects, including a comprehensive study of congressional campaign spending. That study resulted in a major series in *The Times*, as well as the *Handbook of Campaign Spending, Money in the 1990 Congressional Races*, co-authored with Sara Fritz and published by Congressional Quarterly. Prior to joining *The Times* in 1989, Morris was assistant managing editor for special projects at the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, where he supervised the data analysis of mortgage lending practices for a Pulitzer Prize-winning series. Formerly director of special projects at *The New York Times*, Morris has also served as a vice president of Opinion Research Corporation and Louis Harris and Associates. Since 1992, Morris has served as co-editor of Indiana University's Institute for Advanced Reporting Conference On Computer-Assisted Journalism.

Richard Mullins

Richard Mullins was researcher and systems administrator at the National Library on Money & Politics, where SQL is spoken daily. The Library has all the Federal Election Commission's computer tapes back to 1979 loaded on its computers and distributes data disks and printed reports to journalists and researchers. Previously, he worked for a newsroom computer systems vendor installing software, configuring systems, trouble-shooting problems and train-

ing users and managers. He worked for *The Chattanooga (Tenn.) Times, The Charleston (W. Va.) Gazette*, and the (Huntington, W. Va.) *Herald-Dispatch*. He is experienced in tape loading, SQL, data conversion, computer networks, dBase programming, and telecommunications.

Judy Nichols

Judy Nichols, a reporter for *The Arizona Republic*, attended MICAR in 1992. She has gone from a computer moron to downloading and analyzing data from nine-track tapes. She is convinced others can do the same. She has looked at census tapes, helped map controversial votes, documented campaign contributions from Arizona gaming interests, and looked at mortgage data to examine lending discrimination. She is training others in the newsroom.

Brad Patten

Brad Patten joined the *The Phoenix Gazette* as a medical writer in 1984 and soon became interested in the growing volume of electronic health data. With the help of a professor, Patten produced *The Gazette's* first computer-assisted project in 1987 by reviewing 3,000 heart operations in Arizona. The analysis revealed heart surgery death rates and prices rose dramatically after Arizona lawmakers deregulated the service. In 1988, Patten won a fellowship at the Harvard School of Public Health to study computing and statistics. Since then, he has produced award-winning, computer-aided projects on freeway land scams, how Arizona property tax appeals benefit the rich, and how major city council campaign contributors receive millions of dollars in unbid city services.

Nora M. Paul

Nora Paul is the library director and an associate of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, where she conducts seminars on news research and news library management. She came to the Poynter in 1991 after 12 years at *The Miami Herald*, where she was the library director and editor of information services. Paul is a frequent contributor to journalism and library publications, writes a column on bulletin board services for a new newsletter called *Database Files* and is a former assistant systems operator for the Journalism Forum on CompuServe. She was an adjunct professor of communications at the University of Miami and an information broker and records management consultant in Houston.

Barbara Pearson

Barb Pearson, a special projects editor at *USA TODAY*, has worked on a variety of computer-assisted projects ranging from an examination of campus crime to a look at spending by every member of the U.S. House. She does polls and surveys, including what sunblock lotions nudists use and how Olympians prepare for the Games. She joined the newspaper in 1983 as a cover stories editor and moved to her present position about three years ago. Previously, Pearson worked at two other Gannett newspapers — *Florida TODAY* and the *St. Cloud* (Minn.) *Times*.

J. Robert Port

Bob Port is a general assignment reporter for the *St. Petersburg Times* who specializes in computer-assisted reporting. He joined the *Times* 10 years ago and learned much of what he knows about computers while in the U.S. Air Force. Port has

covered police, courts, local governments, urban poverty, and AIDS. He broke the Baby M surrogate parenting story in 1986. He's done special projects recently on rural poverty, labor corruption, sealed criminal records and guns. Port is a recipient of the Society of Professional Journalists' national award for investigative reporting and the Breckner Center's national Freedom of Information Award.

Steve Riley
Steve Riley is a senior writer for special projects for *The News & Observer*. He has written computer-assisted stories that showed a Durham city councilman double-billing his travel expenses and the North Carolina Labor Department's failure to investigate work-related deaths. He recently used computer analysis - through FoxPro - of court statistics to guide his reporting on "Children On the Edge," a five-part series on criminal children and the flawed system designed to correct them. He also used SmarText to manage hundreds of interviews conducted during a year of reporting.

George Schlukbier
George Schlukbier recently left *The Sacramento Bee* to direct PiSYS (Personal Information Systems), a division of *The News & Observer*. He develops information products. His background includes news research, information development and systems. His skills include building full text retrieval databases, digital photo and graphics archiving and integrating open platform systems with SII front end publishing systems. He designed and developed *The Bee's* Macintosh CAR system.

Calvin Jonathan Schmid
Jon Schmid is assistant database editor at *The News & Observer's* Durham newsroom. He worked for MICAR for almost two years while pursuing a master's degree at the Missouri School of Journalism.

Andrew Scott
Andy Scott is a former executive director of IRE. He taught computer-assisted reporting while at the Missouri School of Journalism, and as interim director of the Missouri Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting, he taught the week-long MICAR seminars for professional journalists. Previously, Scott was an investigative reporter at *The Greenville (S.C.) News* and a correspondent for The Associated Press in Peru.

Justin Scroggs
Justin Scroggs is manager in *The News & Observer's* news research department. He coordinates research and computer support services, including database searching, database creation and applications development. He began working with programs designed to sort, index and retrieve information during *The N&O's* coverage of the Hamlet Imperial Food Products fire in 1991. Originally using a locally developed FoxPro-based product, he now works with Lotus' SmarText software on several ongoing and long-range projects. His experience includes punching Cobol cards and using SPSS in college, and helping establish a computerized record keeping system for a community mental health center in Virginia.

Steve Segal
Steve Segal has been a hacker since age 9, in 1974, when he saw his first computer. He is now information graphics specialist with the *Tribune-Review* in Greensburg, Pa. He worked on a computer-assisted, six-part series exposing a $183 million hidden government slush fund in Pennsylvania. The series won the 1993 Pennsylvania Associated Press managing editors award for investigative journalism. Aside from his Paradox work, he is also fluent in an Apple Macintosh environment. He is an adjunct professor of journalism and communications at Point Park College, in Pittsburgh.

Melanie Sill
Melanie Sill, deputy metro editor at *The News & Observer*, is on leave as a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. She has worked with reporters whose stories drew on OSHA records and census figures. Sill started her reporting career at United Press International in Raleigh and moved to *The N&O* in 1982 as a feature writer. In 1989 she was promoted to assistant metro editor and worked on investigations including a series on a commuter airline crash that killed 12 people and a series on the billboard industry's success at dodging taxes and avoiding regulation along North Carolina's highways. She was promoted to deputy metro editor in 1990.

Stephen H. Snow
Steve Snow is the arts editor/health editor of *The Charlotte Observer*. He bought a Mac Plus in 1986. When it died last winter, he turned to DOS. He now has a 2400-bps modem and an IBM clone 286. What little he knows, he taught himself. He has been writing about telecommunications since April 1993, is a co-system operator for *The Observer's* computer bulletin board, runs his own BBS, and is coordinator of an effort to create a regional public-access computing system in the Charlotte area. Snow became a believer after he signed on to the Internet and saw this message: "You have new mail." He writes about the Internet, BBSs, online systems and shares stuff he finds - sources, resources, databases - with reporters.

H. Hugh Stevens Jr.
Hugh Stevens, a partner in the firm of Everett, Gaskins, Hancock & Stevens, is the lobbyist and general counsel to the North Carolina Press Association. He also represents individual newspapers and media companies, handling libel and privacy suits, reporters' subpoena cases, and public access litigation. Since 1985, Stevens has taught at Duke University, where he leads an undergraduate seminar on First Amendment policy. He also has taught at the University of North Carolina School of Journalism and the UNC School of Law.

David H. Stith
Dave Stith is president and CEO of Queen City Container Corporation in Charlotte, a manufacturer of corrugated shipping containers. Unable to find the software he needed to move to a paperless environment, he taught himself FoxPro and wrote his own programs for order entry, inventory control, and invoicing. He also created *The News & Observer's* Money Machine, a campaign contribution database that contains about 200,000 contributions.

Pat Stith
Pat Stith is an investigative reporter. Or at least he was, and will be again, starting Monday. For three years Stith has been on a leave of sorts, helping build the computer-assisted

Downtown Map
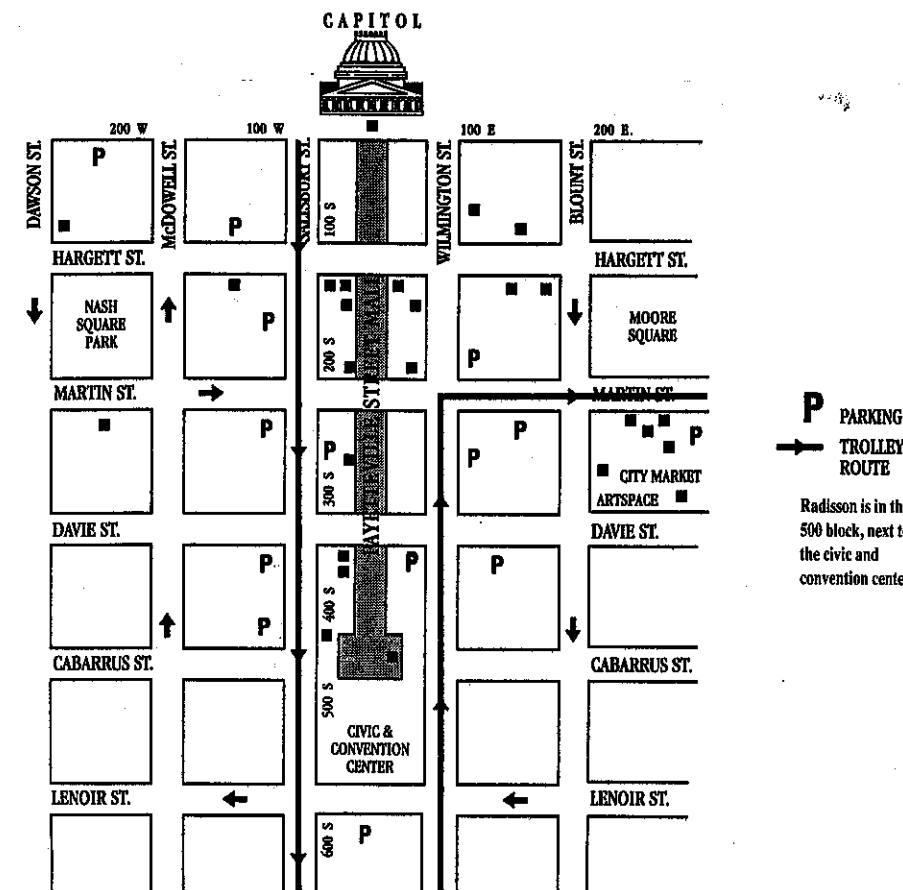
reporting program at *The News & Observer*. He taught classes. He identified several thousand databases owned by the state and has been involved in most of the fights for access. He helped acquire, load and analyze scores of databases. He is an IRE director.

Olive Jane Talley
Olive Talley is a reporter for *The Dallas Morning News* and is on the IRE board. She recently completed a Nieman fellowship at Harvard. She was an early advocate for computer-assisted reporting at *The News* but only recently began training through MICAR and IRE. She plans to tackle projects using nine track tapes in the areas of criminal justice or medical care. Her coverage of non-profits, prisons, and health care issues have won numerous awards.

Lisa P. Van Asch
Lisa Van Asch came to *The News & Observer* three years ago, fresh out of college. As a news researcher specializing in online research, she has identified out-of-state contributors to North Carolina political campaigns, linked public figures to questionable activities, found contacts for reporters and generally filled in the missing pieces with the help of a computer.

Michael Whiteley
Mike Whiteley has worked on special projects teams and covered politics, legislatures, police, courts, and local government in Florida, North Carolina, Kansas, and Texas. As computer projects reporter for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, he used Paradox and FoxPro to build the newspaper's first database system. His analysis of state uniform crime reports in Texas produced a special section on family violence. He also linked 20 years of national, state, and local crime data with the Texas Department of Correction prison tapes to background Fort Worth's ranking among the most dangerous in the United States. Whiteley also has written a manual for newsroom use of the computer system.

Daniel Woods
Dan Woods spent six years as a programmer and consultant before attending Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. While there, he teamed up with Elliot Jaspin to write Nine Track Express, a tape downloading program used by investigative reporters across the country. Upon graduating, Dan worked for three years covering banking at *The Record* of Hackensack, N.J., before joining *The News & Observer*, where he works as database editor.

Restaurants and Nightlife

City Market, within walking distance from the hotel, is a good place to find a burger, a sub or Raleigh's best home-brewed beer. At press time, a coffee house was in the works. Best to avoid the park across the street. From the Radisson, take a left on the Mall (away from the Civic Center), walk two blocks to Martin Street, take a right and look for the old brick market about two blocks down. There, you'll find the following establishments:

Black Dog Cafe, 208 E. Martin St., 828-1994. Great atmosphere, funky bar and decent to great food. Sandwiches, salads, pasta, seafood. Sunday brunch. Hound dog theme.

Greenshields Brewery & Pub, 214 E. Martin St., 829-0214. Excellent home-brewed beer, fine burgers, and respectable British pub food.

Big Ed's, 220 Wolfe St., 836-9909. Breakfast and lunch only. Breakfast only on Saturday, closed Sunday. Despite the odd hours, it's the place to go for Southern country cooking. Chicken: fried, barbecued or stewed; cooked-to-death vegetables with a hint of pork, home-made biscuits.

Comedy Sportz, 204 Wolfe St., 829-0822. Beer bar and improv-comedy competition, Friday and Saturday nights. Can be wacky. Call for reservations and starting time.

THE OTHER END of Martin Street offers a few good spots. From the Radisson, take a left on the Mall (away from the Civic Center), walk two blocks to Martin Street, and take a left.

The Berkeley Cafe, 217 W. Martin St., 821-0777. Bar and night club offering three pool tables and live music every night, usually blues-flavored rock & roll. The food is a pleasant surprise.

Joe's Place, another block west, 301 W. Martin St., 832-5260. Square meals, southern style: meat, potatoes and wide veggie selection. Huge sandwiches on home-made bread. Look for the neon signs.

Humble Pie Bakery, 317 Harrington St., 829-9222. Pass the Berkeley and Joe's and take a left on Harrington. It's about 2 blocks on the left. Menu of pasta, seafood and vegetarian dishes changes daily. Service can be slow, but the fine food, generous portions and ware house atmosphere are worth it. The neighborhood is a bit off the beaten path. Dinner and Sunday brunch only.

TWO HARGETT STREET spots:

Easy Street, 119 E. Hargett St., 755-0404. Walk up the Mall three blocks, away from the Civic Center, and take a right on Hargett. Live music on the weekends and authentic New Orleans cuisine. Great gumbo! Serves until 7 p.m. during week; dinner Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Est, Est, Est Trattoria, 19 W. Hargett St., 832-8899. Follow above directions but take a left on Hargett. It's about a block down on the left, but the main entrance is around the corner on Salisbury Street. Nice, small Italian restaurant: heavy sauces, fresh pasta.

TWO OTHER GOOD ones:

Cooper's BBQ, 109 E. Davie St., 832-7614. Only a couple of blocks from the Radisson. Walk up the Mall away from the Civic Center and turn right on Davie. Ask for a big pig and a Pepsi.

42nd St. Oyster Bar, 508 W. Jones St., 831-2811. Out of downtown so ask at the hotel or call for directions. A good 15 or 20-minute walk. Huge barn of a place with a good bar and live music on weekend. Chowder, crab cakes, steamed oysters are good bets.

LUNCH SPOTS DOWNTOWN; most are closed on Saturdays.

The Mecca, corner of Martin and Wilmington. Traditional southern. Long on atmosphere and cholesterol. Also on the corner: **Livingston's,** great sandwiches and salads; **The Square Rabbit** (take out only), excellent lunch food, sandwiches, soup, and desserts. At Wilmington between Hargett and

Morgan: **Upstairs Restaurant** , old-time deli famous for its well-spoken hostess and fudge cake; and **New York Deli,** the name says it all. At Hargett between Salisbury and Wilmington: **The Souper Natural,** good food despite the silly name.

HILLSBOROUGH STREET. Raleigh's college-town area. Take a cab or a car for these places. If you're driving from the hotel parking garage, take a right, take your first right and then right on to McDowell Street. Go about five blocks and take a left on Hillsborough Street.

Before you get to N.C. State University: **The Char-Grill,** 618 Hillsborough, 821-7636. Can't miss the sign. Great burgers, fries, and lemonade. **Irregardless Cafe,** 901 W. Morgan St., 833-8896. Take hairpin turn off Hillsborough to Morgan, on the right. Gourmet vegetarian with a bit of chicken and fish. **Charlie Goodnight's,** 861 W. Morgan St., 828-5233, a comedy club, down the block. **Jade Garden,** 1207 Hillsborough, 833-7798 good Chinese food. **Bourbon St. Social Club,** 1303 Hillsborough, 832-3822, with the best pool hall in town.

At the campus, all on Hillsborough Street: **Amici's,** respectable, affordable Italian food. **El Rodeo,** respectable, affordable Mexican food. **The Rathskeller,** tofu and more. **Mitch's Tavern,** drinking place featured in the movie "Bull Durham." Not handicapped accessible. **The Five-0 Cafe,** bar room for the slam dance and tie-died crowd. **The Studio,** art movie house with a beer and wine bar.

Just beyond the university: **The Brewery,** live Rock and Roll a la college radios favorite. **Cup A Joe,** classic coffee-house. **India Mahal,** good Indian food.

THE N.C. STATE FAIR. An institution. Admission is $6, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. This is the real thing. You can catch a bus to the fair at Martin Street on the Mall, just a few blocks from the hotel. Lots of good food. Midway rides and booths. Vegetable canning and sewing competitions, livestock exhibits, tractor pulls and more. Waylon Jennings plays for free Saturday night.